

PETITION  
OF  
Local Chapter  
**Gamma Kappa Psi**  
West Virginia University  
TO  
**Kappa Kappa Psi**  
National Honorary Band Fraternity



#15  
KPSI  
OMICRON  
WEST VIRGINIA  
JUNE 17, 1926

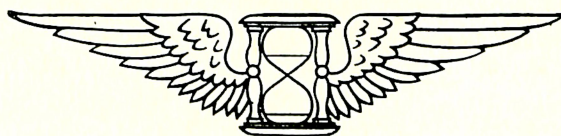
#15



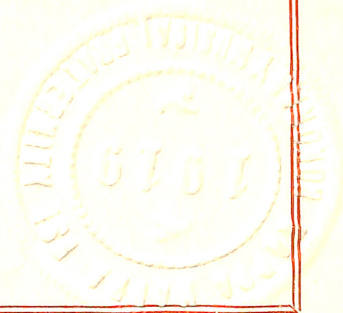




PETITION  
OF  
Local Chapter  
**Gamma Kappa Psi**  
West Virginia University  
TO  
**Kappa Kappa Psi**  
National Honorary Band Fraternity



*OK. S.P.S.*











*Francis B. Zeller*

President of West Virginia University





Mansion of the President



## BRIEF HISTORY OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

The University of West Virginia was founded February 7, 1867. From its inception it has been located at Morgantown, West Virginia. Until December 4, 1868, it was known at the Agricultural College of West Virginia, but then its name changed to the one it now bears.

The institution derives its main support from biennial appropriation from the state legislature. A small portion of its maintenance arises from the Morrill, Hatch, Adams, Smith-Hughes, and Smith-Lever funds, and fees and tuition from the students. A further fund comes to the University from interest on a land grant endowment of \$115,750.

The various departments of the school and the dates of their establishment are as follows: College of Arts and Sciences, 1867; College of Law, 1878; College of Engineering, 1887; The Agricultural Experiment Station, 1888; College of Agriculture, 1897; School of Music, 1897; School of Medicine, 1902; all are located at Morgantown.

The degrees conferred are: A.B., B.S., LL.B., B.S.M.E., B.S.C.E., B.S.E.E., B.S.Chem. E., B.S. Agr., B.S.H.E., A. M., M.S., M.S.M.E., M.S.-C.E., M.S.E.E., M.S.E., M.S. Chem., M.S. Agr.

The enrollment for the first semester 1924-25 was 2,050. Of this number 630 were women. The enrollment for the second semester was approximately 1,900.

West Virginia University is equipped with fourteen large buildings, in addition to the Hall of Chemistry which will be completed during the coming year. A stadium seating 33,000 people was finished last year. This structure is the result of the donations of the people of West Virginia, the money being collected by the athletic department of the University.

The facilities of the University are adequate for 2,500 students, and for the most part is modernized. Our equipment, however, might be said to be in a plastic stage at the present time, as there is being materialized a building program which, when complete, will add twenty-four new buildings to the campus.

The school is rapidly advancing, making the situation adaptable to more fraternities, both honorary and social. The national honorary fraternities here are: Tau Beta Pi (engineering); Phi Beta Kappa (scholastic); Theta Kappa Psi and Phi Sigma Nu (medical); Phi Delta Phi (law); Alpha Zeta (agricultural); Phi Upsilon Omicron (home economics); Phi Lambda Upsilon (chemical).

The social fraternities here are: Phi Kappa Psi; Beta Theta Pi; Kappa Alpha; Sigma Nu; Sigma Chi; Phi Kappa Sigma; Phi Sigma Kappa; Sigma Phi Epsilon; Tau Kappa Epsilon; Kappa Sigma; Delta Tau Delta; Theta Chi; Alpha Gamma Rho; Sigma Lambda Pi; Pi Lambda Phi; Pi Kappa Alpha; Alpha Phi Delta.





CAMPUS VIEW





MARTIN HALL.





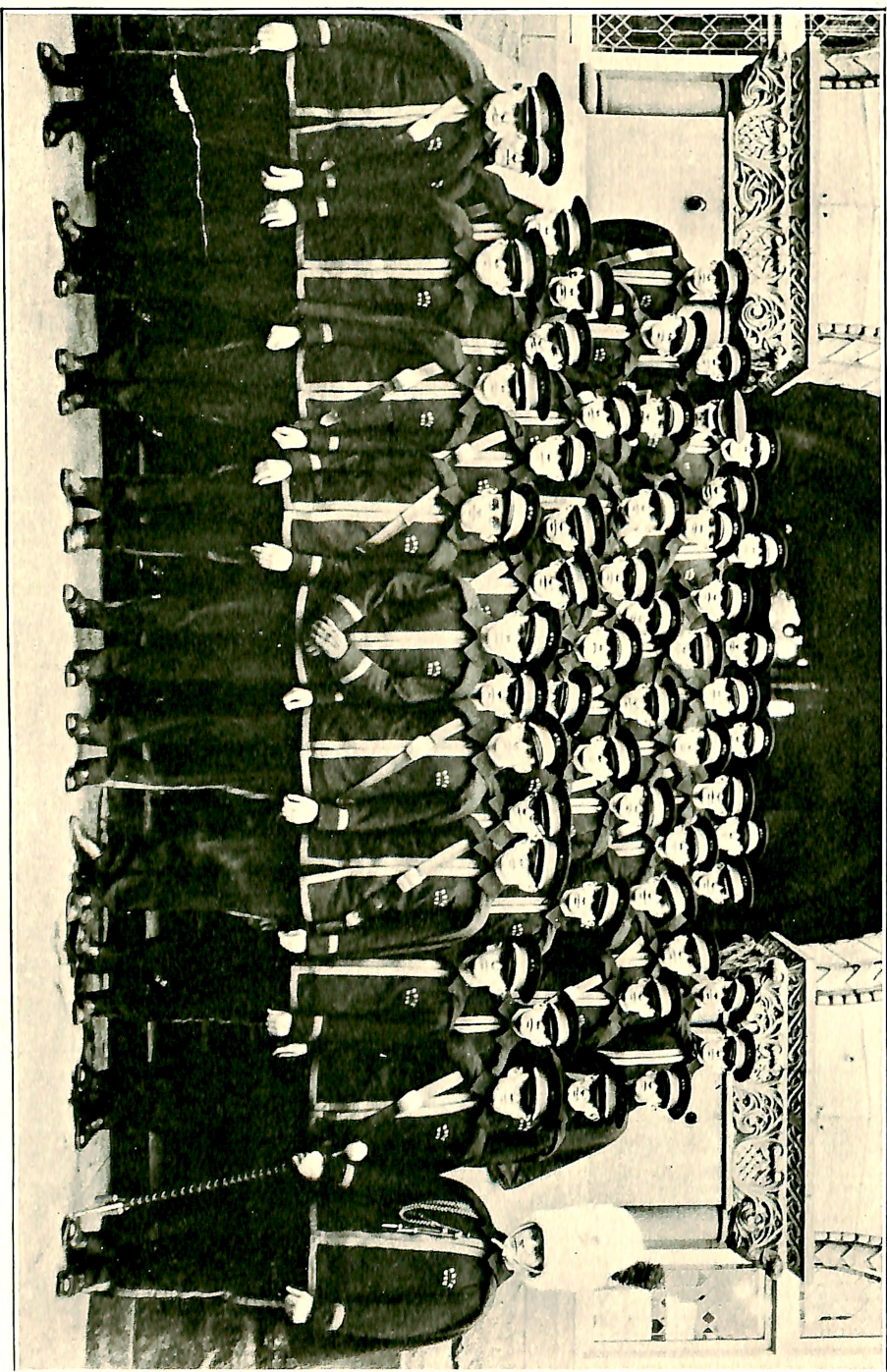
CAMPUS VIEW





CAMPUS VIEWS





R. O. T. C. Cadet Band of West Virginia University





**WALTER A MESTREZAT**  
**Director of Cadet Band**

Walter A. Mestrezat, Director of Band Music and honorary member of our local band fraternity, has been greatly instrumental in getting our local chapter established and recognized on our campus.

He has proven himself a capable musician and an efficient director. His personality and willingness to help anyone at any time have won for him many friends, and he is well liked and remembered by everyone who has known him.

Before coming to our University he played in and directed several U. S. Infantry Bands. From 1880 to 1885 he served as solo cornetist in the 21st U. S. Infantry Band. From 1885 to 1898 he directed bands throughout this section of the country. From 1898 to 1900 he served as Bandmaster with the 1st W. Va. Infantry Band in Cuba during the Spanish American War. From 1900 to 1902 he served as Bandmaster with the 30th U. S. Volunteer Infantry Band both in this country and in the Philippines. Since 1902 he has been Director of Band Music at West Virginia University.





LOCAL BAND FRATERNITY—GAMMA KAPPA PSI

Front Row: Saari, Humphreys, Blackburn, Schramm, Kight, Chambers. Second Row: Smith, McElroy, Monday, Sigmon, Swisher, Browning. Back Row: Ware, Hyde, Lord.



## BRIEF HISTORY OF GAMMA KAPPI PSI,

Early in the spring of 1925 a group of the members of the West Virginia University R. O. T. C. Band decided to form an honorary band fraternity. With this idea in mind, sixteen of the members met in the Armory and completed the primary organization, electing G. J. Saari, president; C. F. Browning, vice-president; John W. Swisher, secretary; and Paul B. Ware, treasurer.

The temporary organization sent Mr. Walter A. Mestrazat, Director of the Band, and Paul B. Ware before the Council of Administration of the University with a petition for a University charter. The petition was filed and on May 20th the Council of Administration of the University granted a charter to the organization under the name of Gamma Kappa Psi and at the same time granted it permission to petition a national honorary band fraternity.

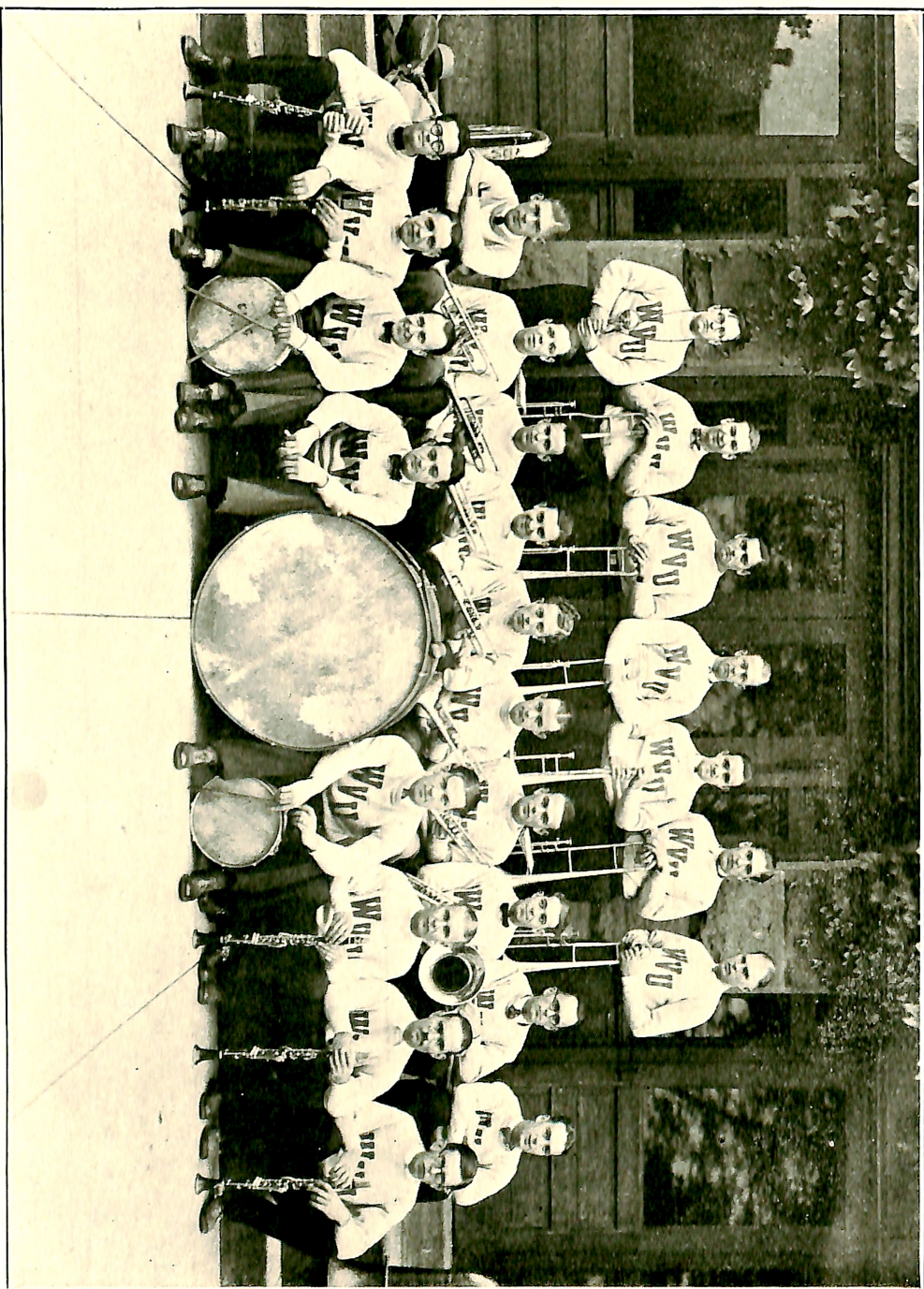
The new fraternity at once completed its organization, and began making plans for the next year.

As soon as school opened in the fall of 1925, the new fraternity successfully sponsored a band known as the Student Band of the University. The Student Band contained the most talented musicians in the University and progressed rapidly under the direction of G. J. Saari and under the control of the fraternity. On Nov. 4th it gave a concert for the benefit of the Eastmont Tuberculosis Sanitarium, and on Nov. 18th gave a concert for the entire student body in their weekly chapel hour.

The band still guided by the fraternity is progressing rapidly toward another and larger concert.

The fraternity has continued its regular meetings and has had several interesting banquets. It has very high ambitions for the future.





THE UNIVERSITY ADVANCED STUDENT BAND



## CHARTER MEMBERS

GEORGE J. SAARI, Pres.  
Weirton, W. Va.

Senior

B. S. C. E.

Average 80.2%

Clarinet, R. O. T. C. Band '21, '22, '23, '24.  
Assistant Director R. O. T. C. Band '23, '24.  
Assistant Director University Band '25.  
University Philharmonic Orchestra '21, '22.  
Monticola (School Annual) Staff '24.  
Tau Delta Theta, social fraternity.  
American Society of Civil Engineers.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

C. F. BROWNING, Vice-Pres.  
Terra Alta, W. Va.

Junior

B. S. C. E.

Average 79.8%

Clarinet, R. O. T. C. Band '22, '23, '24.  
Clarinet, University Band '25.  
R. O. T. C. Rifle Team '22.  
American Society of Civil Engineers.  
Tau Delta Theta, social fraternity.  
Freshman track squad '22.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

JOHN H. SWISHER, Sec'y.  
Sutton, W. Va.

Senior

A. B.

Average 80%

Trombone, R. O. T. C. Band, '21, '22, '23, '24.  
Trombone, University Band, '25.  
Dance Orchestra.  
Fi Bater Capper.  
Kappa Alpha, social fraternity.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

PAUL B. WARE, Treas.  
Philippi, W. Va.

Post Graduate

A. B.—LL. B.

Average 89.5%

Cornet, R. O. T. C. Band, '21, '22, '23, '24.  
Cornet, University Band, '25.  
Columbian Literary Society.  
Business Club.  
Phi Alpha Delta, Law fraternity.  
Delta Kappa Psi, social fraternity.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.



HOWARD G. LORD

Salida, Colo.

Junior

B. S. C. E.

Average 81.7%

Captain Freshman track team '23.  
Varsity track team '24.  
Baritone, R. O. T. C. Band '23, '24.  
Baritone University Band '25.  
American Society of Civil Engineers.  
Sigma Chi, social fraternity.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

GEORGE BLAIR BLACKBURN

New Paris, Pa.

Junior

B. S. C. E.

Average 93.1%

Cornet, R. O. T. C. Band '23, '24.  
Cornet, University Band '25.  
Theta Chi, social fraternity.  
Tau Beta Pi, honorary engineering fraternity.  
American Society of Civil Engineers.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

ROBERT P. HYDE

Charleston, W. Va.

Junior

B. S. C. E.

Average 88%

Bass, R. O. T. C. Band '23, '24  
Bass, University Band '25.  
Kappa Sigma, social fraternity.  
American Society of Civil Engineers.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

JOHN W. SCHRAMM

Piedmont, Md.

Junior

B. S. E. E.

Average 78.8%

Trombone, R. O. T. C. Band '23, '24.  
Trombone, University Band '25.  
American Society of Electrical Engineers.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

CARL P. MONDAY

Charleston, W. Va.

Junior

B. S. C. E.

Average 84.7%

Cornet, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24.  
Cornet, University Band, '25.  
American Society of Civil Engineers.  
Tau Theta Rho, social fraternity.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.



IRVIN L. SMITH  
Middlebourne, W. Va.

Junior

B. S. E. E.

Average 89%

Clarinet, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24.  
Clarinet, University Band, '25.  
Epworth League Orchestra.  
American Society of Electrical Engineers.  
Tau Kappa Epsilon, social fraternity.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

DENNIS L. McELROY  
Moundsville, W. Va.

Senior

B. S. M. E.

Average 83.2%

Tau Theta Rho, social fraternity.  
Mining Society.  
Trumpet, R. O. T. C. Band '23, '24.  
Trumpet, University Band '25.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

RUPERT W. POWELL  
Morgantown, W. Va.

Sophomore

B. S.

Average 83%

Bass, R. O. T. C. Band '22, '23, '24.  
Bass, University Band, '25.  
Greek Club.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

WALTER M. SIGMON  
Westerly, W. Va.

Junior

B. S. Ch. E.

Average 82%

Cornet, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24.  
Cornet, University Band, '25.  
Chemical Engineering Society.  
Phi Delta Lambda, social fraternity.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

JOSHUA L. KIGHT  
Ridgeley, W. Va.

Senior

A. B.

Average 85%

Snare Drum, R. O. T. C. Band, '22, '23, '24.  
Snare Drum, University Band, '25.  
Assistant Wrestling Manager, '25.  
Kappa Sigma, social fraternity.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.

MERRITT E. CHAMBERS  
Cameron, W. Va.

Junior

A. B.

Average 83%

Trombone, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24.  
Trombone, University Band, '25.  
Dance Orchestras.  
Chi Sigma Delta, business fraternity.  
Gamma Kappa Psi.



	THOMAS F. HUMPHREY	
	Wheeling, W. Va.	
Junior	B. S.	Average 79.6%
	Clarinet, R. O. T. C. Band, '16, '24.	
	Clarinet, University Band, '25.	
	Schiller Verein, German club.	
	Gamma Kappa Psi.	

	EMMETT W. ARNOLD	
	Sutton, W. Va.	
Junior	B. S.	Average 84%
	Baritone, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24.	
	Baritone, University Band, '25.	
	Y. M. C. A.	
	Theta Kappa Psi, medical fraternity.	
	Gamma Kappa Psi.	

	WILLIS F. DAVIS	
	Terra Alta, W. Va.	
Junior	B. S. E. E.	Average 87%
	Clarinet, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24.	
	Clarinet, University Band, '25.	
	Secretary of American Society of Electrical En-	
	gineers, '25.	
	Gamma Kappa Psi.	

	MELVILLE C. PECK	
	Morgantown, W. Va.	
Junior	A. B.	Average 81%
	Drums, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24.	
	Drums, University Band, '25.	
	Mandolin Club, '23.	
	Gamma Kappa Psi.	



WALTER HOSTETLER  
Gassaway, W. Va.

Junior	A. B.	84%
	Trombone, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24. Trombone, University Band, '25. Theta Chi Fraternity. Gamma Kappa Psi.	

ROBERT S. ALBA  
Mt. Hope, W. Va.

Junior	A. B.	84%
	Bass Drum, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24. University Band, '25. Gamma Kappa Psi.	

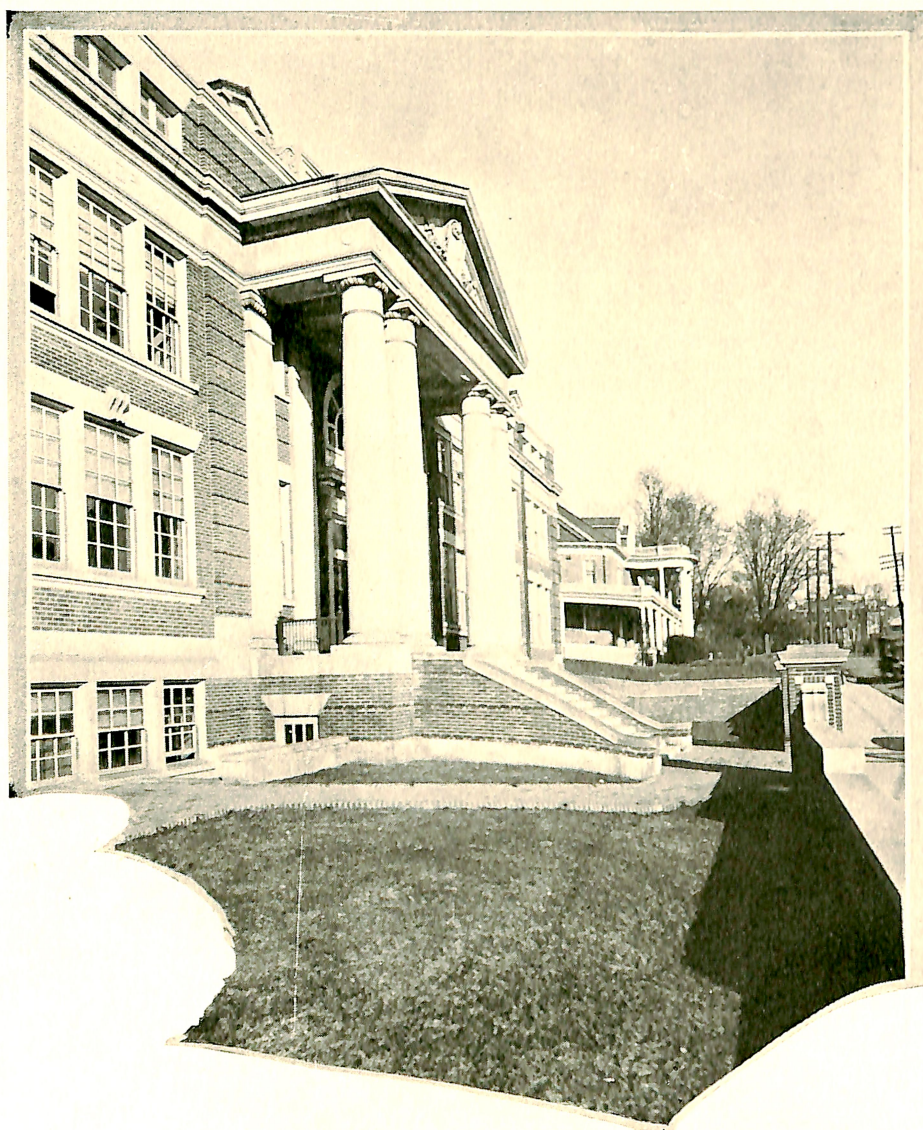
CARL VAN HORN

Junior	A. B.	83%
	Cornet, R. O. T. C. Band, '23, '24. Cornet, University Band, '25. Dance Work. Gamma Kappa Psi.	

CARSON E. HOWARD  
Cameron, W. Va.

Senior	B. S.	81%
	Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Gamma Kappa Psi. Bass, R. O. T. C. Band, '21, '22, '23. Bass, University Band, '25. Manager, West Virginians Dance Orchestra. Editor-in-Chief of Monticola '24 (Year Book) Chairman Monticola Publication Board '25. Monticola Prize Award '24. Press Club, Treas. '22. Treasurer Freshman Class. Ass't. Manager Dramatic Club '23. Military Ball Committee '22. University Philharmonic Orchestra '21, '22. Wrestling Squad '22. Track Squad '22. University Choir '21. Glee Club '24.	





NEW LAW BUILDING





New Womans' Hall





New Oglebay Hall



## RECOMMENDATIONS

College of Engineering,  
Sept. 26, 1925.

To whom it may concern:

The Council of Administration at a meeting on May 24, 1925, Unanimously approved the petition of Paul B. Ware, and eleven other members unanimously approved the petition of Paul B. Ware, and eleven other members of Kappa Psi with the further permission to apply for a charter in a national band fraternity.

The band, under the capable leadership of Walter Mestrazat, has long been the pride of the University. It has attracted the best musical talent of many states and has at all times been able to maintain a first class organization. If the University and the students' time permitted, it would be in almost constant demand for state wide service.

The band as a whole, and the members of the club in particular, are excellent students and high class young men in every respect.

I have no hesitancy in recommending the club for a charter in a national organization. The band is a permanent organization and its past and present personnel are the best possible guarantees that a splendid and permanent field is here for a national band fraternity.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. R. Jones,

Dean, College of Engineering and Secretary of the Council of Administration.



Office of the President

Oct. 15, 1925.

To whom it may concern:

Paul B. Ware and eleven other University students have permission from the Council of Administration of West Virginia University to organize a band club, and later to apply for a charter in a National Band Fraternity.

The administration of the University approves this move and recommends the young men as worthy in every respect, and requests that a charter be granted them.

Very respectfully,  
Frank B. Trotter,  
President.

Oct. 5, 1925.

To whom it may concern:

Last year several of the boys suggested the possibility of organizing a local band fraternity here. I was greatly pleased with the idea and offered them my services whenever needed. This idea soon developed into a reality and within a few weeks, through an enthusiastic and determined effort of the members, a charter was secured from the Council of Administration for the purpose of organizing a local honorary band fraternity.

Every member has played at least two years under my direction and I have become personally acquainted with each one. I know that every man is a qualified musician, a dependable and conscientious worker, and an excellent student.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I recommend this fraternity to the national organization, Kappa Kappa Psi.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Walter A. Mestrezat,  
Director of the R. O. T. C. Band.



The School of Music  
Oct. 3, 1925.

To whom it may concern:

There seems to be material here for a University Band, as distinguished from the Cadet Band, and a desire on the part of those concerned to become affiliated with the Band Fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi.

The idea appeals to me as being good and I am heartily in favor of such an organization as was described to me.

It is proposed that this band be composed of men regularly enrolled in the West Virginia University, who have served their time in the Cadet Band, so that in no way that I can see will it conflict with that organization.

The purpose is that it shall be available for thuses and all large University affairs where a band would be useful.

It seems to me, this organization would fill a very useful place in our University.

Respectfully,  
Louis Black,  
Director of the School of Music.

The School of Medicine.  
Oct. 13, 1925.

Kappa Kappa Psi,  
Honorary Band Fraternity.  
Gentlemen:

We have a local fraternity on the campus known as the Gamma Kappa Psi composed of some of the most representative men we have and I am told they are petitioning your fraternity for a chapter. It is my opinion that you will make no mistake in granting it.

Our military band is one of the best in the country having a membership of more than sixty and is a part of our Cadet Corps.

Any favor you may extend these young men will be appreciated.

Yours truly,  
John N. Simpson, Dean.



The College of Law  
April 17, 1925.

Kappa Kappa Psi,  
Honorary Band Fraternity.  
Gentlemen:

Mr. Paul B. Ware, a student in the College of Law has advised me that a group of young men in this University are petitioning your organization for a charter. I know Mr. Ware and some of the other men in the group and, in my opinion, they are worthy of the honor. The University Band has been a very good one for a number of years, and has plenty of talent for a strong organization of good musicians. However, I believe that a fraternity such as yours would furnish an incentive for better work on the part of the members of the band.

Sincerely yours,  
J. W. Madden, Dean.

College of Agriculture  
April 3, 1925

To whom it may concern:

It is my understanding that a petition is being presented to the Kappa Kappa Psi, Honorary Band Fraternity by the eligible members of the local R. O. T. C. band, West Virginia University, for membership in this national organization. I am pleased to say that I have investigated the above mentioned Honorary Fraternity and the things for which it stands and I believe such an organization would stand for higher scholarship and a pronounced professional spirit among our local band members. With this in mind I heartily approve of said petition.

Respectfully, yours,  
G. R. Lyman, Dean.



Kappa Kappa Psi,  
State College, Pa.  
April 27, 1925

To the Grand Officers and Chapters of the  
Kappa Kappa Psi Fraternity,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Dear Brothers:

We saw and heard the performance of the West Virginia University Band at the Polo Grounds, New York City, during the football season 1923. The performance, we feel sure, was up to the standards as set up by Kappa Kappa Psi.

During the visit of the Thespian Club at Morgantown on Saturday, April 18, 1925, several of the brothers of the Zeta Chapter viewed the buildings on the campus and also met some of the members of the local Band Club.

So far as we are able to judge, we feel that this group of men is worthy of consideration for membership in the Fraternity.

Fraternally yours,  
Zeta Chapter,  
A. E. Hill, Secy.

Office of the Dean of Men  
Oct. 12, 1925

To whom it may concern:

I can heartily recommend our local honorary band fraternity, Gamma Kappa Psi, for membership in a national band fraternity.

The scholastic and personal requirements of Gamma Kappa Psi are such that membership is a coveted honor and a mark of distinction.

Respectfully,  
Harry E. Stone, Dean of Men.



*Petition Compiled By*  
CARSON E. HOWARD  
GEORGE J. SAARI  
C. F. BROWNING



